THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Trial testing of Kaveri engine upto Preliminary Flight Rating Tests (PFRT) is likely to be completed by December 2003 after which the engine would be integrated with LCA.

(c) The design of the Kaveri engine is indigenous. In the prototype manufacture, certain components/sub systems like Turbine Blade Castings and Heavy Forgings procured from abroad are used. Most of the special materials/ components for Kaveri engine have been developed indigenously and type certified. Plans have also been evolved to develop indigenous alternatives to imported components.

Crisis in manufacturing of missiles and aircrafts

†510. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the manufacturing of missiles and aircrafts is facing crisis due to the closure of Korba Plant after the privatisation of BALCO; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the arrangements made by Government to continue manufacturing and defence research smoothly?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a)No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Mig-21-93

511. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether indigenously upgraded MIG-21-93 aircraft has since rolled out at Nasik unit of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.;

(b) if so, the special and innovative features of this aircraft; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.